

sequence. Reputed Ecboolics are numerous, but the only good ones known are *Claviceps purpurea* (Ergot of rye), and *Ustilago maidis* (smut of corn). These are low vegetable growths; investigation would probably show that this Ecboolic property is a characteristic of this coniomycetous group, as are the physiological properties of other plants and groups.

The bark probably is an astringent of little value, since we have many such of much more pronounced qualities,—and, moreover, mere astringency is a property less and less estimated in medicine as science advances.

NOTE ON THE ANATOMY OF TWO RARE GENERA OF PIGEONS
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ÆDIRHINUS INSOLITUS.

The genus *Ædirhinus* is distinguished among the fruit-eating pigeons by the possession of a bony excrescence on the nasal and frontal regions of the skull, very much resembling that occurring in certain varieties of the domestic fowl. An examination of its anatomy, however, shews that in all other respects this rare pigeon is a very near ally of the genus *Ptilopus*. As in the latter genus there is no gall-bladder the *ambiens* muscle is absent and the gizzard has a cruciform lumen in transverse section owing to the development of four muscular masses. One point hitherto unnoticed in the myology of *Ptilopus* is likewise shared by *Ædirhinus*. In a previous note on the myological characters of the *Columbæ* published in the proceedings of this Society, (Vol. iv., p. 396, 1879), I gave as one of the peculiarities of the muscular system in the Pigeons the absence of a posterior belly of the *latissimus dorsi*. At that time I had only had the opportunity of examining members of the subfamilies *Columbinæ* and *Phapinæ* of Garrod, and in these this modification of the

muscle seems to be universal. In *Ædirhinus*, however, and in *Ptilopus*, I find that, as in all other birds except the *Columbinæ* and *Phapinæ*, the posterior belly of the muscle is well developed.*

The *Treroninæ* may thus be defined myologically as *Columbidæ* wanting the *ambiens* muscle, but possessing a posterior belly of the *latissimus dorsi*.

TURACÆNA CRASSIROSTRIS.

The genus *Turacæna* of Gould is a granivorous pigeon resembling *Macropygia* in most respects, but distinguished from it by the possession of a very large and powerful bill, rivalling that of *Didunculus* in size. As in *Macropygia* and the rest of the *Columbinæ*, there are twelve long rectrices and the gall bladder is absent. The gizzard has a squarish outline on a front view, contrasting with the oval shape of that of *Macropygia*; in length it is an inch and a quarter, and the breadth is nearly equal to the length. The cavity is wide and somewhat oblique, the mass of the muscular fibres being aggregated at the anterior and right, and posterior and left angles. The intestine is about 30 inches in length and is devoid of cæca. As in the rest of the *Columbinæ* and *Phapinæ*, there is an *ambiens* muscle and the posterior belly of the *latissimus dorsi* is absent.

The form of the bill and the shape of the gizzard remove *Turacæna* somewhat widely from *Macropygia*, and the absence of intestinal cæca seems to favour this genus being placed in the subfamily *Phapinæ* rather than the *Columbinæ*.

*In this as in various other points *Didunculus strigirostris* approximates rather to the *Treroninæ* than to the *Columbinæ* or *Phapinæ*.